



Dear Principal:

On behalf of the Secretary of Energy, Samuel W. Bodman, we are pleased to announce the 8th annual Department of Energy National Middle School Science Bowl[®]. It is comprised of two different contests, an academic competition and a model fuel cell car competition. The academic competition is a fast-paced question-and-answer contest where students answer questions about earth science, physical science, life science, math, and general science. The model fuel cell car competition challenges students to design, build, and race model cars.

Twenty-eight Regional Science Bowls will be held across the country, with the winner of each competition qualifying to be one of the teams competing in the National Science Bowl[®] finals. In 2008, more than 2,500 students participated in twenty-eight regional competitions throughout the nation. Your Regional Science Bowl will be held **Saturday, March 7, 2009** at Brookhaven National Laboratory in Upton, NY. The winner of the academic competition is invited to participate at the national competition. Trophies are awarded for both competitions.

The middle school national competition will be held April 30th to May 1st, 2009, at the National 4-H Center in Chevy Chase, Maryland, and is sponsored by the Department of Energy. Prizes awarded in 2008 included calculators, PDAs and trophies. This year, the high school and middle school national competitions will be held in conjunction with each other at the 4H center.

The Brookhaven National Laboratory's regional competition is limited to 20 schools. Teams will be selected on a first-come basis. We expect the slots to fill quickly so please register as soon as possible. **No schools will be registered after February 27, 2009.**

Academic Competition: Rounds are in the form of a round robin/single-elimination tournament. Teams consist of six people from one middle school: five students, **one of whom is an alternate**; and a coach, usually a science or math teacher.

Hydrogen Fuel Cell Car Challenge: Each team will receive, prior to the event, a hydrogen fuel cell car kit with educational materials. The teams will build their cars prior to the competition and race them on the day of the regional event. A teacher workshop will be held for participating coaches. Dates and logistics are TBD. When the teams have been identified, an information packet will be sent to the coaches.

To register a team, please go to <http://www.scied.science.doe.gov/nmsb/default.htm>, create an account and complete the registration form. Enclosed is the parental consent form which must be completed and returned by February 27, 2009. These forms as well as more information about the National competition can also be found online at <http://www.scied.science.doe.gov/nmsb/RulesResources.htm>.

We are proud to sponsor academic competition through the Department of Energy National Science Bowl[®], and hope to have your school's participation. If you have any questions, please contact me at (631) 344-3054 or via E-mail at cathyo@bnl.gov. You may also access further information on our website at www.bnl.gov/education.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Catherine Osiecki". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Catherine Osiecki
Educational Programs Administrator